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MAKES STUDY OF CANARIES.

To meet the needs of persons interested in canaries, Farmers' Bulletin 1327, Canaries, Their Care and Management, by Alexander Wetmore, assistant biologist, was recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. One of the functions of the Biological Survey of this department is to inspect importations of birds from foreign countries. Within the last 2 years, according to its records, the trade in canaries from Germany has nearly resumed its prewar volume. In 1922, more than 150,000 canaries were imported from Europe and from the Orient.

Canaries seem to thrive in any climate where they are not exposed to too severe weather conditions. The European species probably came originally from the Canary Islands, but there has been much interbreeding with the serin finch, a native of Europe, which in most respects can not be distinguished from the wild canary. About 14 distinct strains are known at present, with many varieties.

The common canary is reared primarily for its song. From it probably came the roller, or song canary, a great favorite in Europe. In rearing song canaries the aim is to produce males with clear, soft, pleasing songs, with long rolls or trills. When fledged the young birds are put in rooms with males noted for their soft song, where they develop their own vocal powers by imitation. Ordinarily the room where song canaries are being trained is darkened, and sometimes the cages are screened with cloth to lessen a

tendency to objectionable loudness of song. It is common to teach these birds some simple melody or air through constant repetition.

In choosing cages for canaries the primary consideration should be the comfort of the birds. A square cage is better than a round one as one of this shape affords more room for exercise. The placing of the perches so as to facilitate exercise also is important. Cages must be kept scrupulously clean and free from vermin and should not be exposed to a direct draft of cold air as canaries take cold easily.

The bulletin gives advice on feeding canaries properly; on providing facilities for baths and on the care of the birds during the molting and breeding periods, together with directions for keeping them vermin-free and other particulars of interest to those who have canaries as pets. It is available upon application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.